

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

07/19/2012 04:57 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest, 7/19/12

## OPA Daily Digest for 7/19/12

### Congressional Inquiries:

**Rep. Emanuel Cleaver** (Mo.) – Letter – 7/18/12. Questions about the bidding process for the contract to perform lead remediation work at the Omaha Lead Site. Due: 7/31/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Rep. Jo Ann Emerson** (Mo.) – Email – 7/16/12 – Questions about the status of lead remediation projects in St. Francois County. Due: 7/18/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Claire McCaskill** (Mo.) – Phone inquiry – 7/6/12 – Requests a status update on the West Lake Landfill superfund site. Due: 7/10/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

### State Government Inquiries:

None

### Press Inquiries:

**Omaha World-Herald** – Cindy Gonzales – 7/19/12: Questions about \$70,000 of green infrastructure technical assistance for Omaha, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**KSMU Radio** – Michele Skalicky – 7/16/12: Questions about Missouri's impaired waters list. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**Environmental Monitor**, Beaver Creek, Ohio – Emily Bowman – 7/19/12: Questions about water monitoring equipment in Kansas City, Mo., and KCWaterBug application for smartphones and mobile devices. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**KOAM-TV** – Stephanie Marsh – 7/19/12: Questions about green infrastructure technical assistance. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

### Environmental Stories:

**The Garden City Telegram - Sunflower CEO gives update on Holcomb expansion** - 7/11/12 - Officials from Sunflower Electric Power Corp. are awaiting a Kansas Supreme Court decision about the status of their Holcomb expansion project's air quality permit. But even a positive judgment from the state's highest court wouldn't necessarily clear the way for Sunflower's plans to construct an 895-megawatt, coal-fired generating unit at its existing Holcomb plant  
<http://www.gctelegram.com/news/Sunflower-CEO-presentation-7-11-12>

**CNN Anderson 360 - Investigating wasteful spending at GSA (video)** - 7/19/12 - CNN's Drew Griffin looks into how federal employees used taxpayer money at the General Services Administration. GSA sent employees to Kansas City culinary institute for \$20,000.  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/07/19/politics/gsa-spending-latest/index.html>  
video - <http://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/2012/07/18/investigating-wasteful-spending-at-gsa/>

**Des Moines Register - The Register editorial: EPA letter should be a wakeup call** - 7/19/12 - Why is our water so dirty? The state's agricultural businesses, including 7,000 animal feeding operations, is a significant reason. Why do they do so much damage to the environment? Elected officials let them.  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120719/OPINION03/307190054/1035/>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Fires flaring across Missouri** - 7/19/12 - This is no normal summer. Stoked by hot winds and tinderbox-dry grass, fires have flared across Missouri in recent weeks, raging with uncharacteristic energy in some areas, sending flames 70 feet in the air.  
[http://www.stltoday.com/business/fires-flaring-across-missouri/article\\_2dc1d802-d05f-11e1-89bb-001a4bcb6878.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/fires-flaring-across-missouri/article_2dc1d802-d05f-11e1-89bb-001a4bcb6878.html)

**Missourinet - Low Missouri River has enough water (audio: 11:14)** - 7/19/12 - A year ago the Missouri River was running bank-full and more. This year it seems to be running at a relative trickle. But that's just a matter of perception.  
<http://www.missourinet.com/2012/07/19/low-missouri-river-has-enough-water-audio/>

**Mondaq (blog) - United States: A Thoughtful Discussion By Policy Makers Of A Difficult Issue? How Refreshing!** - 7/18/12 - EPA's recent proposed rule regarding backup generators would allow additional operations by such generators when used to assist in demand response. It's a tricky issue, because diesel generators are not clean, and the aggregated emissions from a number of small, but uncontrolled diesel generators can be significant.  
<http://www.mondaq.com/unitedstates/x/187450/Environmental+Law/A+Thoughtful+Discussion+By+Policy+Makers+Of+A+Difficult+Issue+How+Refreshing>

**Greenwire - Industry, states side with EPA in fight with enviros over pollution rules** - 7/19/12 - Eleven states have joined utility and agriculture industry groups in siding with U.S. EPA against environmentalists who want the agency to crack down on water pollution across the sprawling Mississippi River Basin. <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2012/07/19/3>

**Comedy Central - EPA Fines Companies for Failure to Deploy Unicorn Farts** - 7/18/12 - You could have the government chose politically-connected industries (ethanol!) and companies (Solyndra!), to be subsidized at taxpayer expense, have them fail to develop a usable product and then fine manufacturers for failing to blend their fuel with the aforementioned rainbows and unicorn sweat. Glad we made the right choice!  
<http://www.indecisionforever.com/blog/2012/07/18/epa-fines-companies-for-failure-to-deploy-unicorn-farts>

**New Haven Register (Conn.) - Forum: Refiners want sanity blended into EPA fuel order** - 7/18/12 - Lawful American companies now must spend money to sue the federal government for relief from unobservable rules. This fact demonstrates how boneheaded and bullheaded Washington has become.  
<http://nhregister.com/articles/2012/07/18/opinion/doc500727aa26b3d625664060.txt>

**Utility Products - Fines for fantasy biofuel? Why?** - 7/18/12 - Why does America's economy feel like an SUV running on fumes? The Obama administration's laughably rigid enforcement of a Baby Bush-era ethanol mandate typifies today's regulatory climate.  
<http://www.utilityproducts.com/news/2012/07/19/fines-for-fantasy-biofuel-why.html>

**Agrimoney - US 'absolutely not' mulling waiver to ethanol rule** - 7/17/12 - US energy watchdogs are "absolutely not" mulling an easing in ethanol targets to reduce the pressure on corn supplies, despite significant damage to the crop from heat, a senior official said.  
<http://www.agrimoney.com/news/us-absolutely-not-mulling-waiver-to-ethanol-rule--4761.html>

**Nation - Whose Side Is the American Farm Bureau On?** - 7/16/12 - The American Farm Bureau, with its 6 million "member families" and carefully cultivated grassroots image, talks a good game. In the pitched battle over US farm policy, the Farm Bureau positions itself as the voice of the farmer.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/168913/whose-side-american-farm-bureau#>

**Brownfield Ag News - Geothermal possibilities (audio)** - 7/19/12 - Just like everyone else, farmers are always on the lookout for more energy-efficient equipment for their operations...and that includes the house. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2012/07/19/geothermal-possibilities/>

**The Atlantic - Baby Steps: The Drone Industry's Code of Conduct Skips Over Key Questions** - 7/19/12 - The last several months were supposed to be good times for the makers of unmanned aerial systems, popularly known as "drones." The problem is that what appeared to be good news for the industry instead turned into a public-relations nightmare. <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2012/07/baby-steps-the-drone-industrys-code-of-conduct-side-steps-key-questions/260010/>

**Brownfield Ag News - Vilsack addresses White House reporters on drought** - 7/19/12 - U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack pointed out to members of the White House press corps Wednesday that effects of the drought include higher prices for corn and soybeans. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2012/07/18/vilsack-addresses-white-house-reporters-on-drought/>

**Brownfield Ag News - The increasing viability of solar and wind energy** - 7/18/12 - While solar energy collection has been around for a long time, the technology is constantly improving. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2012/07/18/the-increasing-viability-of-solar-and-wind-energy/>

**EnergyWire - Neb. agency hits TransCanada with host of questions about new route** - 7/18/12 - The Nebraska environmental agency accused by Keystone XL opponents of preparing to rubber-stamp a new route for the \$5.3 billion pipeline yesterday sought a lengthy list of politically volatile data from its operator. <http://www.eenews.net/public/energywire/2012/07/18/1>

**E&E Daily - Feds must promote new reactors, tackle waste challenge -- report** - 7/19/12 - The Obama administration and Congress must promote the construction of new reactors, tackle the country's waste woes and ensure lessons are learned from Japan's nuclear disaster last year so nuclear power remains a viable source of energy in the United States, according to a new report released yesterday. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2012/07/19/7>

**Ethanol Producer Magazine - E15 sold for \$1.15 at extremely successful grand opening** - 7/19/12 - A week after it became the first retail gas station to offer E15 under the waiver granted by the U.S. EPA, a grand opening celebration was held at Zarco 66 "Oasis" station in Lawrence, Kan. <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/8959/e15-sold-for-1-15-at-extremely-successful-grand-opening>

**New York Times - So, How Hot Was It?** - 7/17/12 - It was so hot last week, a twin-unit nuclear plant in northeastern Illinois had to get special permission to continue operating after the temperature of the water in its cooling pond rose to 102 degrees. <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/17/so-how-hot-was-it/>

**Sacramento Business Journal (Calif.) - Studies: Fuel will be cheaper, cleaner with low-carbon standard** - 7/19/12 - Scientists from six of the nation's leading research institutions, including the University of California Davis, have found that fuels will be cleaner and cheaper in the future if the U.S. adopts a national low-carbon fuel standard. <http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/news/2012/07/19/fuel-low-carbon-standard-studies-uc-davi.html>

**Environmental Leader - How the Mining Industry Is Cleaning Up Its Act** - 7/19/12 - When one thinks of the mining industry, in most cases the idea of a "dirty" industry comes to mind. Historically the mining industry has had a poor reputation with its relationship to the environment, and has had to learn from its mistakes the hard way. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2012/07/19/how-the-mining-industry-is-cleaning-up-its-act/>

**BNA - Markey Presses Interior to Work Closely With EPA on Coal Ash Disposal in Mines** - 7/19/12 - Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) has sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to push the Interior

Department to work closely with the Environmental Protection Agency on development of a rule for disposal of coal ash in mines.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=27347040&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9n4h4&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27347040&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9n4h4&split=0)

**BNA - Nebraska DEQ Provides Feedback Report To TransCanada on Keystone Pipeline Project -**

7/19/12 - The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality said July 16 that it has provided an initial feedback report to TransCanada Corp. concerning a possible new route for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline, finding that the route meets the intention of the state legislature in avoiding the environmentally sensitive Sand Hills region.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=27347046&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9t0t1&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27347046&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9t0t1&split=0)

**BNA - EPA Asks Science Advisory Board To Help Determine Safe Perchlorate Level -** 7/19/12 - The Environmental Protection Agency asked an independent science board July 18 for help in determining a safe level for perchlorate in drinking water as the agency develops a rule to control the substance.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=27347026&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9g0d2&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27347026&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9g0d2&split=0)

**BNA - EPA to Review Performance Standards For Municipal Waste Landfills by May 2013 -** 7/19/12

- Under the terms of a proposed consent decree, the Environmental Protection Agency would have to complete a review of new source performance standards for municipal solid waste landfills and issue a decision whether to revise the standards by May 2013.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=27347027&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9g2w7&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27347027&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9g2w7&split=0)

**BNA - Environmental Groups Plan to Sue EPA Over Failure to Update Refinery Rules -** 7/19/12 -

Environmental groups announced plans July 18 to sue the Environmental Protection Agency for its failure to review the standards for emissions of air toxics from petroleum refineries as required by the Clean Air Act.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=27347033&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9h8f7&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27347033&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9h8f7&split=0)

**BNA - Documents Show White House Changed EPA Proposed Particulate Standard During**

**Review -** 7/19/12 - The Environmental Protection Agency intended to propose an air quality standard for fine particulate matter of 12 micrograms per cubic meter of air, but documents indicate the White House during interagency review changed the proposal to be in a range between 12 µg/m3 and 13 µg/m3.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=27347036&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9k2m7&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=27347036&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d3q9k2m7&split=0)

**Inside EPA - EPA Pact To Review Landfill NSPS May Open Door To Methane Limits -** 7/18/12 - EPA is agreeing with environmentalists to establish legal deadlines to review whether its outdated new source performance standards (NSPS) for municipal solid waste landfills are still effective.

<http://insideepa.com/201207192404913/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-pact-to-review-landfill-nsps-may-open-door-to-methane-limits/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - OMB Changes To EPA's PM Plan Could Spark First-Time Air Law Challenge -** 7/18/12

- Pre-publication changes that the White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) made to EPA's proposed air quality standard for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) could provoke a first-time legal test for the agency if it were to set the standard at the weaker limits sought by OMB.

<http://insideepa.com/201207192404914/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/omb-changes-to-epas-pm-plan-could-spark-first-time-air-law-challenge/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - New Group Beginning Talks With EPA On Supplanting RFS With LCFS -** 7/19/12 - A

new coalition of academic and research institutions is beginning talks with EPA on implementing a national low-carbon fuel standard (LCFS) that would augment -- or even supplant -- the agency's

renewable fuel standard (RFS).

<http://insideepa.com/201207192405002/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/new-group-beginning-talks-with-epa-on-supplanting-rfs-with-lcfs/menu-id-95.html>

### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

**\$70,000 in Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance to Omaha, Neb.** - Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**\$30,000 in Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance to Neosho, Mo.** – Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

### **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**7/24-26/12** – Lead Task Force Meeting and Site Tour, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Cecilia Tapia, 7733 and Julia Cacho, 7071

**7/27/12** – Missouri Environmental Conference at the Lake, Osage Beach, Mo. Contacts: Julia Cacho, 7071 and David Cozad, 7587

**7/27/12**- Lincoln University Water Boot Camp Certificate Ceremony, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Kris Lancaster, 7557 and Monica Espinosa, 7541

**8/17/12** – Meetings with IDNR and Farm Broadcasters, Des Moines, Iowa. Contacts: Kris Lancaster, 7557 and Josh Svaty, 7202

**9/10/12** – Bayer CropScience Community Advisory Panel, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Rich Hood, 7906

**11/19/12** – 2012 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782 and Julia Cacho, 7071

### **RA/Immediate Office**

**8/13-17/12** - ORD Lead Region Transition Planning Meeting with Region 10, Corvallis, Ore. Contacts: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566 and Dana Peters, 7444

**9/11- 12/12** - Attend Hypoxia Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

**9/13/12** - Attend National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

### **Other Events**

#### **AWMD**

**7/26/12** - Attending Missouri Air Conservation Commission public meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Amy Bhesania, 7147

**7/31/12** - Attending the Cooper Nuclear Plant exercise, Brownsville, Neb. Contact: Robert Dye, 7605

**8/1/12** - Attending Pollution Prevention Intern report-outs, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

**8/7/12** - Attending Pollution Prevention Intern report-outs, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

## **CNSL**

None

## **ECO/EJ**

**7/26/12** - Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp, Olathe, Kan. Contact: Michael Minor, 7539

**8/9/12** - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

**9/13/12** - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

**10/11/12** - Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Mini-Series, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

## **ENSV**

**7/22-30/12** - ORD/U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) sampling event, Omaha, Neb. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188

**7/31 - 8/2/12** – Meeting with the incoming Lead Region Coordinators and the National Program Directors, Washington, DC. Contact: Tony Petruska, 7637

## **PLMG**

**8/1-2/12** - Sustainable Communities Building Blocks code audit workshops in Dallas Center, Woodward and Van Meter, Iowa. Contact David Doyle, 7667

**8/8/12** - Sustainable Communities Building Blocks code audit workshop in Hays, Kan. Contact David Doyle, 7667.

## **RA/OPA**

**7/25-26/12** – Missouri Lead Task Force Tour and Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo., and Meramec State Park, Sullivan, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

**7/26/12** – Public Availability Session, Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Site, Norfolk, Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 and Owens Hull, 7726

## **SUPR**

None

## **WWPD**

**7/15-20/12** - American Federation of Government Employees annual conference, Silver Springs, Md.

Contact: Morris Holmes, 7421

**7/18-20/12** - Kansas Corporation Commission Program Review, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159 and Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

**7/18-20/12** - 27th Annual Heartland Operators Conference presentation, Kearney, Neb. Contact: Robert Bryant, 7354

**\*7/23-26/12** - Office of Pesticide Programs Office Director and others participating in resistance management in corn, field tours/discussions, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Jamie Green, 7139

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